Cape Elizabeth July. 29.
1845

My dear friend.

- When I read the original draught of the protest. there were some 2 or 3 passages which struck me so unpleasantly that I told Nelson they vitiated the whole - & that I should not sign it. Two of them were the very ones to which you refer I think. He has modified them, so that they are not so objectionable as they were then - still I do not like them altogether as they stand now -

As respects the first paragraph however. the fault is rather of omission, than one involving an error - I should like to have something said about political duties & of the necessity of withholding all support from slaveholders - but as every thing could not well be said in a protest of this length. I am willing to let this pass. para. 3d

The passage "that they have been educated" &c looks too much like echoing the common apology. "O they're educated to think it's right. & therefore it is:- for them" - The line just above is open to a similar objection. "are nevertheless left without instruction" &c. There is instruction enough on the point - even though Southern ministers be dumb - I thought as you did that Belfinches hand was there -

- The sentence about holding slaves for their sake I like still less. & for the reasons you have stated. - Still I do not like to withhold my signature on these accounts exactly - to a document which on the whole pleases me so much - Can you

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think of any very brief form of expression which attached to our signatures might express our disapprobation of this latter sentence (for I am not inclined to lay much stress on the other objections) while we give our assent to the protest as a whole - How would this do - ~~not assenting to that part of the 6th Paragraph which seems to imply that~~ = with the exception of the passage which speaks of individuals holding slaves for the sake of their bondmen - as being liable to be misunderstood - as causing many slaveholders instead of having reference to an isolated case here & there - or something to that effect. - Cant you think of something better, however for I am not exactly satisfied with this je result of hasty thought -

- Or how would this do - we assent to this with the single exception, that we should prefer to substitute in place of the sentence above referred to, inasmuch as it may be misunderstood - the this sentence - Some individuals may hold slaves under such circumstances as may in a measure ~~their guilt less than~~ - palliate their guilt - -

- This would not be too long - if it were so placed that several of us ultra ones could sign it collectively -

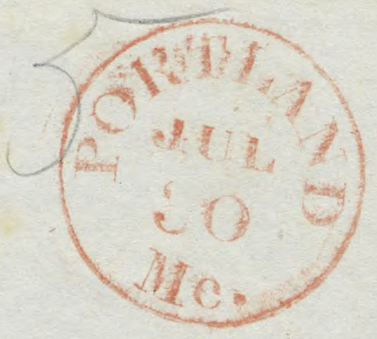
and in this case, we might add - with the exception also of passages implying that we have no political influence to exert - or which seem to imply that the slaveholder is left without light - on this subject -

- Perhaps we could get several of the committee to add some exception like this of their sentiments - ~~& it might be done in the same~~ - when the

protest is published to the world —
— What do you think of all this? — or
better still, can't you suggest some better
plan —
With much regard Yours truly
J Parkmen

P.S. a certain number of us ought say
we agent to the protest itself. without endorsing
every sentiment in the preamble — This would
be more general —

S. May.



paid

Rev. Saml. May.
Leicester.
Mass.

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